SAALT 2018 Midterm Election Voter Guide

- SAALT's voter guide presents policy positions and candidates' values in twenty Congressional districts with the highest number of South Asian Americans in the country. This guide also includes two additional races that feature a South Asian American candidate and a Congressional district with a leadership position in the House of Representatives. Population data by district was pulled from the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS).

- Each race shows the Democratic and Republican candidate positions on the issues of Immigration, Civil Rights, Hate Crimes, and the 2020 Census based on a series of questions.

- The research process included monitoring primary elections; initial outreach to campaign offices with a questionnaire; follow-up outreach via email, phone, Facebook, and Twitter.

Diversity in Regions and Races

- **22 Congressional districts**:
  - Top 20 Congressional districts with the highest number of South Asian Americans in the country based on ACS 2017 data
  - Two additional races:
    - OH-1 South Asian American candidate – Aftab Pureval and Steve Chabot
    - VA-6 Bob Goodlatte, Chair of House Judiciary Committee – Jennifer Lewis and Ben Cline
- **42 candidates evaluated (2 uncontested races)**
- **9 states:** California, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Texas, Virginia

Top 20 Congressional Districts with Largest South Asian Population

1. CA-17 Khanna and Cohen – 17.3% of district population is South Asian
2. NJ-6 Pallone and Pezzullo – 12.2%
3. NY-5 Meeks uncontested – 10%
4. NJ-12 Coleman and Kipnis – 9.9%
5. CA-15 Swalwell and Peters – 8.9%
6. TX-22 Kulkarni and Olson – 7.5%
7. IL-8 Krishnamoorthi and Diganvker – 7.6%
8. NY-6 Meng uncontested – 7.2%
9. NY-14 Ocasio-Cortez and Pappas – 7.2%
10. TX-24 McDowell and Marchant – 6.8%
11. TX-3 Burch and Taylor – 6.5%
12. VA-11 Connolly and Dove – 6.2%
13. VA-10 Wexton and Comstock – 6%
14. NY-3 Suozzi and DeBono – 6%
15. IL-9 Schakowsky and Elleson – 5.2%
16. GA-6 McBath and Handel – 5.1%
17. CA-18 Eshoo and Russell – 4.9%
18. MI-11 Stevens and Epstein – 4.8%
19. NJ-8 Sires and Muniz – 4.4%
20. VA-8 Beyer and Oh – 4.1%

** OH-1 Pureval and Chabot (not in top 20 districts)

** VA-6 Lewis and Cline (not in top 20 districts)

Candidate Questionnaire

Immigration

- Supports H.R. 3440, a clean Dream Act to create a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers without harming other immigrants?
- Supports legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for TPS holders or H.R. 4253, American Promise Act?
- Supports the preservation of work authorization for H-4 visa holders or signed onto Rep. Pramila Jayapal and Rep. Mia Love's bi-partisan Dear Colleague letter?
- Rejects detention of immigrant families and children and supports legislation to keep families together or supports H.R. 6326, Reunite Separated Families Act of 2018?
- Rejects border enforcement and funding or rejects H.R. 4760 Securing America's Future Act or rejects H.R. 6136 Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018?

Hate Crimes

- Supports comprehensive hate crimes legislation that mandates hate crimes reporting to the FBI by state and local law enforcement or supports H.R. 1566 NO HATE Act?

Census 2020

- Rejects the proposed citizenship question on the 2020 Census or supports H.R. 5359 - 2020 Census Improving Data and Enhanced Accuracy (IDEA) Act, which prohibits last minute changes or additions to the census without proper research, studying, and testing and requires biannual reports on the U.S. Census Bureau's operation plan?

Civil Rights

- Rejects profiling by law enforcement based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or perceived immigration status or supports H.R. 1498 - End Racial and Religious Profiling Act (ERRPA), the only comprehensive ban on racial profiling by law enforcement?
- Rejects the Muslim Ban or supports H.R. 4271, which prohibits the use of any funds or fees to implement Executive Order 13780, also known as the Muslim Ban?

Methodology and Data Collection

From July – August 2018, we monitored 22 key Congressional primary races and sent initial e-mail inquiries with the questionnaire to 42 candidates. We contacted campaign offices via email, phone, Facebook, and Twitter. After the initial 10 day response deadline we followed up by directly tweeting at candidates and, if available, calling their campaign offices.

If the candidate did not respond, we used publicly available information on their voting records on key federal legislation, public statements, and policy platforms to develop our analysis.

For current Members of Congress, we used their voting record on relevant legislation as markers of support for or against a particular policy position.

- Ex. Supports a clean DREAM Act = co-sponsor of H.R. 3440 DREAM Act of 2017

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SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER

2018 Mid-term Election Voter Guide

South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) is excited to share our 2018 Midterm Election voter guide. In this critical election year, South Asian Americans have a stake in key policy questions that affect our communities. An important first step is understanding candidate stances on the issues that affect our community so we can hold them accountable for their policy positions and values—regardless of their party affiliation.

SAALT's voter guide presents policy positions and values of candidates representing twenty Congressional districts with the highest number of South Asian Americans in the country. This guide also includes two additional races that feature a South Asian American candidate and a Congressional district with a leadership position in the House of Representatives.

We reached out to all candidates with a questionnaire and analyzed publicly available information on their voting records on key federal legislation, public statements, and policy platforms to develop our analysis.

Each race shows the Democrat and Republican candidate positions on the issues of Immigration, Civil Rights, Hate Crimes, and the 2020 Census based on a series of questions.

The Big Issues

Immigration

With over 5 million South Asians in the United States, immigrant justice is a top priority for the community. The South Asian American community includes undocumented immigrants, family members and temporary workers on various visas, refugees and asylum seekers, lawful permanent residents, and United States citizens. There are over 450,000 undocumented Indian Americans alone.

Hate Crimes

In the wake of the 2016 Presidential election, SAALT has documented a precipitous rise in hate violence across our communities. In the year following the Presidential election, SAALT catalogued 213 incidents of hate violence aimed at South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab American communities—a 45% increase from the 2015-2016 preelection period. It is increasingly clear we need to protect our communities from hate.

2020 Census

Our Constitution requires a counting of all persons in the U.S. every ten years. That count is intended to include all people, not only citizens. Anything that threatens an accurate count, such as the proposed citizenship question on the forthcoming 2020 Census, must be avoided at all costs. Unnecessarily asking every household and every person in the country about their citizenship status in the current political environment will cause fear and a significant undercount of our communities.

Civil Rights

Issues of mistrust in and a lack of accountability from law enforcement have affected communities of color for decades. This been particularly evident after September 11, 2001, when South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern, and Arab American communities have been unjustly targeted by government racial and religious profiling policies. More recently, government policies underscoring racial and religious profiling and surveillance have increasingly been aimed at our communities since the 2016 Presidential election.

Choose Your State

California -

District 15 | District 17 — What's my district?

Congressional District with #5 (8.9%) largest South Asian population

Eric Swalwell
Democrat

Rudy Peters
Republican

Immigration

	Eric Swalwell	Rudy Peters
Support a clean DREAM Act or H.R. 3440? Full details >	✓ Yes	? Unknown
Support legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for Temporary Protected Status visa holders or H.R. 4253 American Promise Act?	✗ No	? Unknown
Support the preservation of work authorization for H-4 visa holders?	✗ No	? Unknown
Reject detention of immigrant families and children or support H.R. 6135 Keep Families Together Act?	✓ Yes	? Unknown
Reject border enforcement and funding or reject H.R. 4760 Securing America's Future Act or H.R. 6136 Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018?	✓ Yes	? Unknown

Hate Crimes

Support comprehensive hate crimes legislation that mandates hate crimes reporting or H.R. 1566 NO HATE Act?	✗ No	? Unknown

2020 Census

Reject the proposed citizenship question on the 2020 Census or support H.R. 6359 IDEA Act?	✗ No	? Unknown

Civil Rights

Reject profiling by law enforcement based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or perceived immigration status or support H.R. 1498 End Racial and Religious Profiling Act?	✓ Yes	? Unknown
Reject the Muslim Ban or support H.R. 4211?	✓ Yes	? Unknown

Candidate Positions

✓ The candidate supports the issue as presented

✗ The candidate does not support the issue as presented

? The candidate did not respond, or we could not evaluate their position based on publicly available information. Note: A lack of response from a candidate does not necessarily signal a lack of support on a particular question or issue.

Georgia +

Illinois +

Illinois – District 9

District 9

Congressional District with #15 (5.2%) largest South Asian population.

Janice Schakowsky

Democrat
(Incumbent)

John Elleson

Republican

Immigration

	Janice Schakowsky	John Elleson
Supports a clean DREAM Act or H.R. 3440 Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Supports legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for Temporary Protected Status visa holders or H.R. 4253 American Promise Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Supports the preservation of work authorization for H-4 visa holders Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Rejects detention of immigrant families and children or supports H.R. 6135 Keep Families Together Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Rejects border enforcement and funding or rejects H.R. 4760 Securing America's Future Act or H.R. 6136 Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018	✔	?

Illinois – District 9 Cont'd

Hate Crimes Supports comprehensive hate crimes legislation that mandates hate crimes reporting or H.R. 1566 NO HATE Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Census Rejects the proposed citizenship question on the 2020 Census or supports H.R. 5359 IDEA Act or H.R. 5292 2020 Census Accountability Act Learn More (HR 5359) > Learn More (HR 5292) >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Civil Rights Rejects profiling by law enforcement based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or perceived immigration status or supports H.R. 1498 End Racial and Religious Profiling Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Rejects the Muslim Ban or supports H.R. 4271 or H.R. 724 Learn More (HR 4271) > Learn More (HR 724) >	✔ Yes	? Unknown

Candidate Positions

✔ The candidate supports the issue as presented

✖ The candidate does not support the issue as presented

? The candidate did not respond, or we could not evaluate their position based on publicly available information.
Note: A lack of response from a candidate does not necessarily signal a lack of support on a particular question or issue.

Illinois – District 8

Illinois

Whats My District?

District 8

Congressional District with #7 (7.6%) largest South Asian population

Raja Krishnamoorthi

Democrat
(Incumbent)

Jitendra Diganvker

Republican

Immigration

Supports a clean DREAM Act or H.R. 3440 Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Supports legislation to create a pathway to citizenship for Temporary Protected Status visa holders or H.R. 4253 American Promise Act Learn More >	✖ No	? Unknown
Supports the preservation of work authorization for H-4 visa holders Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Rejects detention of immigrant families and children or supports H.R. 6135 Keep Families Together Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown

Illinois – District 8 Cont'd

Rejects detention of immigrant families and children or supports H.R. 6135 Keep Families Together Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Rejects border enforcement and funding or rejects H.R. 4760 Securing America's Future Act or H.R. 6136 Border Security and Immigration Reform Act of 2018 Learn More (HR 4760) > Learn More (HR 6136) >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Hate Crimes Supports comprehensive hate crimes legislation that mandates hate crimes reporting or H.R. 1566 NO HATE Act Learn More >	✔ Yes	? Unknown
Census Rejects the proposed citizenship question on the 2020 Census or supports H.R. 5359 IDEA Act or H.R. 5292 2020 Census Accountability Act Learn More (HR 5359) > Learn More (HR 5292) >	✖ No	? Unknown
Civil Rights Rejects profiling by law enforcement based on race, ethnicity, religion, national origin, or perceived immigration status or supports H.R. 1498 End Racial and Religious Profiling Act Learn More >	✖ No	? Unknown
Rejects the Muslim Ban or supports H.R. 4271 or H.R. 724 Learn More (HR 4271) >	✔	?

Timeline

- July – August 2018: Initial outreach to 42 candidate offices via email, phone, Facebook, Twitter.
- August 2018 – September 2018: Collecting and analyzing data, creating design/mock-up with Radical Designs, drafting media and communications strategy
- October 6, 2018 – Official public launch at SAALT's Chicago Townhall
- October – November 2018: Outreach period to share the voter guide with community members, stakeholders, and national partners through mainstream and ethnic media, social media platforms, Constant Contact, etc.
- November 6, 2018 – Election Day!
- November 7, 2018 – January 2019 Accountability and Congressional Engagement strategy

SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS LEADING TOGETHER
2018 MIDTERM ELECTION VOTER GUIDE
SAALT's non-partisan voter guide presents policy positions and values of candidates representing twenty Congressional districts with the highest number of South Asian Americans in the country as well as other key races.
Each race shows the Democratic and Republican candidate positions on the issues of Immigration, Civil Rights, Hate Crimes, and the 2020 Census.
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